

Remarks

Claims 43-46 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to subject matter encompassed by the cancelled claims. Allowed claims 27-42 are pending in the instant application. No new matter has been entered in the present amendment.

Form PTO-1449 filed November 15, 2000

On review of the instant application Applicants have noted that no acknowledgement has been received to confirm the Examiner's consideration of references AC1, AD1, AE1 and AL2, as disclosed in the First Information Disclosure Statement filed November 15, 2000. For the Examiner's convenience Applicants provide herewith a copy of form PTO-1449 as filed together with that IDS. Applicants further enclose a copy of the date stamped postcard indicating receipt of the First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, form PTO-1449, and references AC1, AD1, AE1 and AL2, by the U.S.P.T.O. on November 15, 2000.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner confirm the consideration of these references and provide appropriate notification to that effect.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as the specification allegedly "does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims." *See*, Paper No. 30, page 2. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully point out that presently rejected claims 43-46 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby obviating the present rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 43-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the remarks of the present response be entered and made of record in the present application. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number indicated below. If a fee is required in connection with this paper, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-3425 for the appropriate amount.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 7, 2003



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Enclosures
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